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Addendum

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Summary

The present follow-up report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the recommendations of the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addresses all the activities FAO has undertaken in the fields addressed in the recommendations.

In section I, Background and general context, the main fields of activities where FAO is currently working directly or indirectly with indigenous peoples are set out.

Section II describes those activities that FAO has undertaken in the fields addressed in the recommendations of the second session of the Forum:

- Indigenous peoples and food security
- Indigenous peoples, biodiversity and genetic resources
- FAO support for the implementation of Agenda 21.

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Section III describes those technical cooperation and investment projects presently supported by FAO that are addressed to or involve indigenous peoples. It describes some of the activities that FAO is currently undertaking in the field of forestry and indigenous peoples, the forest often being the natural resources heart for indigenous peoples groups.

In the same section, the report refers to those FAO meetings at which indigenous peoples organizations and networks participated in 2003. In particular, it refers to the FAO seminar on indigenous peoples in food and agriculture, which FAO organized in Rome on 16 and 17 December 2004, with the participation of three representatives of the Permanent Forum, Mr. Ole Henrik Magga (Norway), chairman of the Forum, Mr. Ayitégan Kouevi (Togo) and Mr. Parshuram Tamang (Nepal).

The overall objective of the seminar was to promote mutual understanding of institutional mechanisms and mandates between the members of the Permanent Forum and FAO and to jointly explore the issues of indigenous peoples related to food and agriculture. The representatives of the Forum felt that the seminar was the starting point of an ongoing process, and they hope to continue this type of dialogue.

Section IV of the report describes those FAO activities related to the special theme of the third session of the Permanent Forum: Indigenous women. In particular it describes those activities related to gender and biodiversity and to policy formulation in which indigenous women are involved.

Finally, in section V, the report describes the way in which the Focal Point Network on Indigenous Issues in FAO is functioning, led by the FAO Focal Point on Indigenous Issues, Ms. Adriana Herrera, Agrarian Analysis Officer of the Land Tenure Service at FAO headquarters in Rome.

I. Background and general context

1. FAO works with indigenous peoples and their organizations in many of its regular programme activities. Indigenous issues are an integral part of the work of numerous organizational units, including those working in household food security and nutrition, fisheries, forestry, land, water, plant production management and protection, livestock, agricultural support systems, legal advice (on normative frameworks for access to and use of natural resources), and units dealing with participation, rural institutions and land tenure.

2. The programmes and activities involving indigenous peoples (including traditional communities) include:

- Biodiversity, including global programmes on plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Farmer field schools
- Traditional knowledge systems in agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Farmers' rights
- Nutrition and household food security
- Food insecurity and vulnerability profiling and mapping
- Sustainable forest management
- Small scale fisheries
- Development law
- Land tenure
- Rural institutions and participation
- Gender, population and indigenous knowledge
- Research, extension and training
- Measurement tools on sustainable agriculture and rural development practices in the interest of indigenous peoples.

3. Some of the main FAO activities related to the technical issues addressed at the second session of the Permanent Forum are described in sections II to V of the present report.

II. Activities related to the recommendations made to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

A. Indigenous peoples and food security at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

4. In 1994, the Director-General of FAO initiated a review of the organization's priorities, programmes and strategies. The review concluded that:

(a) Improving food security should be reaffirmed as the organization's top priority;

(b) That there was an urgent need for the organization's programmes to focus more sharply on increasing food production, improving stability of supplies and generating rural employment, thereby contributing to more accessible supplies.

5. This approach was endorsed by the World Food Summit, held in Rome in November 1996, which called for concerted efforts at all levels, to raise food production and increase access to food in 86 low income, food deficit countries in order to decrease the number of malnourished people by half by 2015.[1] In working specifically on the issue of indigenous peoples and food security, FAO is presently undertaking several activities relating to, inter alia:

Nutrition and household food security. FAO, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, is working to build sustainable livelihoods for the food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable in coastal and riveraine areas of Latin America, the Great Lakes region of Africa, and the Mekong Region in South-East Asia. Activities in the Caribbean will support the national poverty reduction strategies and national and regional food security programmes by:

- Improving national and donor understanding of the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, for designing or reorienting programmes and projects to better meet their food security needs and livelihoods priorities;
- Drawing lessons about human organizational and institutional capacities in rural communities and the effectiveness of participatory community-based approaches in responding to the needs and reducing the food insecurity of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups, including indigenous peoples;
- Empowering indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups by building their capacities, knowledge and skills to achieve their own livelihood objectives and improving the capacity of the service providers that works with them to support them in these efforts.

6. FAO, together with the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment of McGill University in Canada, is working on a methodology and procedures for documenting traditional food systems of indigenous peoples. Through this partnership, FAO has worked with indigenous peoples in Thailand, China and Bangladesh on the identification and reintroduction of the consumption of native foods with good potential for alleviating micronutrient deficiencies, in particular deficiency of vitamin A.

7. Together with the Belgian Survival Fund and the Governments of Ethiopia, Zambia and Mozambique, FAO is working on a programme for the alleviation of malnutrition and poverty. The programme strategy is centred on enhancing the involvement of indigenous peoples in decentralized planning, decision-making and strengthening their resource base and social networks for greater self-reliance and determination. Its food security strategy emphasizes the role of indigenous crops and foods for the improvement of nutrition among poor and marginal groups.

8. During 2003, FAO published a paper on household food insecurity and nutrition in mountain areas, which gathered together available information on the subject. The paper focused on specific diseases and malnutrition factors affecting the people who live in mountain areas.

Food insecurity and vulnerability profiling mapping. In FAO's country profiling work, subnational nutrition and household food security information related to indigenous groups is systematically incorporated in the food insecurity and vulnerability profiles. FAO has carried out profiling exercises of special vulnerable groups in Nepal, Viet Nam, Guatemala and Benin, countries which are largely inhabited by indigenous peoples. In addition, FAO is developing its Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems programme, which integrates information on food insecure and vulnerable groups at the national and subnational levels in a mapping system. The programme is designed to capture information on indigenous peoples, who are often among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Processing and storage. FAO, through the Information Network on Post-Harvest Operations, has consolidated, documented and disseminated information on the traditional processing and storage of a number of foods that are locally grown in developing countries. Much of the information on the Network relates to developing and improving traditional practices. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has supported this initiative on the principle that it provides a basis for the identification of indigenous technologies and their protection.

B. Indigenous peoples, biodiversity and genetic resources

Standard-setting. Under the FAO intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, several policy instruments have been negotiated involving indigenous communities and groups. With at present 164 members, the Commission has become a recognized international forum for discussion of all matters dealing with agricultural biodiversity, genetic resources for food and agriculture and related biotechnologies. The Commission has developed major international technical and policy frameworks for the management of genetic resources for food and agriculture including: the Leipzig Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. All of these policy instruments acknowledge the roles played by farmers, livestock keepers, indigenous and local communities in conserving and improving agricultural biodiversity as well as seeking ways to improve their livelihoods.

9. An important achievement of the Commission was the negotiation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was adopted by the FAO Conference in November 2001. The Treaty is a new comprehensive international agreement. Its objective is to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biodiversity, for food security and sustainable agriculture. The Treaty recognizes the enormous contribution that farmers and local and indigenous communities have made, and continue to make, to the conservation and development of plant genetic resources. This is the basis for Farmers' Rights, which include the protection of traditional knowledge, the right to participate equitably in benefit-sharing and in national decision-making about plant genetic resources.

10. The entry into force of the International Treaty during 2004 will be a major milestone for international cooperation. Further negotiations and the implementation of the treaty will also be of great relevance to indigenous peoples and their organizations.

Globally important agricultural heritage systems. Together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), FAO is undertaking an initiative aimed at the global recognition, conservation and sustainable management of agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, biodiversity and knowledge systems over the world. Agricultural heritage systems have evolved as a result of farmers' adaptive and innovative management strategies over millennia, and they continue to contribute greatly to the food security of indigenous peoples and subsistence farming communities worldwide. They provide essential environmental goods and services and quality of life well beyond their geographical limits. This inter-agency initiative will support and strengthen the sustainable agro-ecological and livelihood strategies of farming communities and indigenous peoples, conserve and value the goods and services they provide, and mobilize national and global recognition, as well as policy and institutional support.

World Food Day 2004. On 16 October of every year the world celebrates World Food Day. A special theme related to food and agriculture is usually selected as the topic of the day. FAO has selected the topic of "Agricultural biodiversity for food security" as the topic of World Food Day in 2004.

C. Support for the implementation of Agenda 21

11. The FAO initiative on sustainable agricultural and rural development emerged from the dialogue on land and agriculture, reviewing Agenda 21, which took place at the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and from the subsequent forum on the same subject at the meeting of the FAO Committee on Agriculture in 2001. Sustainable agricultural and rural development is a civil society, government-supported and FAO-facilitated initiative. Some 55 organizations have already voiced interest and support for the initiative. They are organizations of: farmers, indigenous peoples, workers and trade unions, women, youth, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scientific and technological communities,

business and industry, interested consumer and media groups, Governments and intergovernmental organizations.

12. Sustainable agricultural and rural development is a multistakeholder umbrella framework designed to: support the transition to people-centred sustainable agriculture and rural development; and to strengthen participation in programme and policy development. This will be carried out through the support of pilot efforts to improve access to resources by rural communities and disadvantaged groups; promote good practices; and foster fairer conditions of employment in agriculture.

13. It is expected that the sustainable agricultural and rural development initiative will provide catalytic support to strengthen the capacities, initiatives and innovations of indigenous peoples, farmers, fisher folk, pastoralists and other rural people. It will provide a framework through which local, national and regional initiatives related to sustainable agricultural and rural development can be recognized, supported and, if appropriate, replicated. The initiative will link resources, expertise, knowledge and technologies to demands of rural communities and disadvantaged stakeholders. The initiative is aimed at the achievement of concrete and measurable improvements in the livelihoods and living conditions of the rural poor over the next five years, thus contributing to the implementation of chapter 14 of Agenda 21 and achievement of the Millennium Declaration Goals. Efforts are currently being made to define commitments of civil society actors, including indigenous peoples' organizations, and to mobilize the resources needed to implement the initiative.

14. The input of indigenous peoples to the sustainable agricultural and rural development dialogue process has been facilitated by the International Indian Treaty Council, one of approximately 40 indigenous peoples' organizations and networks in the indigenous peoples' major group caucus of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Treaty Council facilitates the direct participation of indigenous peoples from south, central and north America, Asia and Africa in the multistakeholder dialogues at the Commission on Sustainable Development.

15. The Tebtebba Foundation (the indigenous peoples' international centre for policy research and education) has been active in promoting the sustainable agricultural and rural development initiative on a less frequent basis. Tebtebba has been taking the lead in developing terms of engagement for the initiative that will provide a framework for the joint work of the diverse stakeholders involved.

III. Other significant information regarding programmes and projects of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to indigenous issues

A. Forestry and indigenous peoples

16. FAO is supporting, through its regular programme and through its National Forestry Programmes Facility, the strengthening of stakeholder participation in policy processes. National forest programmes are the main vehicle for improving forest policy processes, offering an opportunity to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples, especially in decision-making. Within the national forest programmes framework, FAO support mainly focuses on the need for participation

and partnerships with all stakeholders in a shared effort for them to achieve and benefit from sustainable forest management. Participation of indigenous peoples in national forest programmes enhances their ownership in the processes, ensuring that their needs are taken into account during the formulation and implementation of forest policies and legislation.

B. Technical cooperation and investment projects

17. Through its unit working on the preparation of investment projects of the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and regional banks, FAO is engaged in a variety of activities that concern indigenous issues. These activities are mostly geared to improving the livelihoods of indigenous populations and aimed at encouraging wider participation among indigenous communities in rural development initiatives. These initiatives include:

Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples development project in Ecuador. The project has been funded by the World Bank and IFAD and designed and technically supported by FAO. The project aims at improving the quality of life of rural indigenous and afro-Ecuadorian communities by providing improved access to land and financing resources for investment projects planned and implemented by local organizations and communities. The project is managed and executed by Indian Ecuadorian groups.

Rural poverty and natural resources project in Panama. The project is funded by the World Bank and technical supported by FAO. The project objective is to test methodologies and channel financial resources to rural communities in order to foster sustainable production systems and reduce rural poverty and degradation in natural resources. The project benefits poor rural districts in the central provinces of Panama, including the indigenous territories of the Comarca Ngöbe Bugle.

Integrated ecosystem management in indigenous communities. The project was prepared using funds provided by GEF. It is presently under consideration for co-funding by several donors. FAO has provided support to the World Bank in the final preparation stages of the project and will also be involved in the technical support for the implementation. The objective of the project is to achieve integrated ecosystems management/sustainable land management in indigenous lands in Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama).

Carbon capture and development of environmental markets in indigenous cocoa agroforestry systems in Costa Rica. The project is funded through a Japanese grant administered by the World Bank. FAO has been involved in the pre-implementation stages and will be supporting the implementation phase. The project aims at the implementation of a carbon sequestration market, based on cacao agroforestry and other multi-strata perennial crop systems, in a selected pilot zone of Costa Rica (Talamanca-Caribe), as a means of: (a) facilitating a transition for poor indigenous communities towards sustainable land use and rural development in marginal areas; (b) establishing a framework for developing private markets for sequestered carbon at a micro-regional and/or (micro-) watershed level; and (c) leveraging additional funding and attracting national and international clientele to a biocarbon market linked to other service and social functions.

Small farmers development project in Argentina. The project is funded by the World Bank and supported technically by FAO. The objective of the project is to increase the productive and organizational capacity of rural poor communities through: (a) improved production of food for family consumption; (b) improved rural infrastructure; (c) diversification of productive activities; and (d) integration of informal beneficiary groups (including indigenous communities) into organizations. The project has had considerable achievements in building institutional capacity for community development in areas with high concentrations of indigenous populations.

Pilot community development project in Paraguay. The project builds on the experience of the small farmers development project in Argentina. Funded by the World Bank and supported technically by FAO, the objective of the project is to reduce poverty among poor rural and urban households in the southern regions of Itapúa, Misiones and Neebucú, which have an indigenous minority population (total of 1.5 per cent in the whole country). Social inclusion of these populations is sought by encouraging the active participation of indigenous organizations in local decision-making structures and capacity-building activities.

C. Participation of indigenous peoples in meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

18. Increasingly, indigenous peoples' organizations and networks are participating as observers at FAO intergovernmental meetings at both global and regional levels. They are active participants at the meetings, conferences and consultations of NGOs and civil society organizations that take place prior to and in conjunction with FAO technical committees (particularly the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on World Food Security and the Committee on Forestry).

19. Indigenous peoples' organizations and networks are expected to participate in the forthcoming NGO/civil society organization regional consultations that will be taking place in conjunction with the FAO regional conferences, between March and May 2004.

20. Indigenous peoples' organizations and networks are also participating as stakeholders in the intergovernmental working group process for the elaboration of a set of voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. They are involved directly in the process through their participation in these meetings as observers as well as through their submission of proposals on the content and structure of the voluntary guidelines. In addition, they are involved indirectly through a self-organized and autonomous NGO/civil society organization working group set up in November 2002 at the NGO/civil society organization consultation in Mülheim, Germany.[2]

21. During 2003, FAO also had contact with the focal points for indigenous peoples' organizations of the International Planning Committee on the issue of food sovereignty. The Committee is a facilitating mechanism for interface between NGOs, civil society organizations, social movements and FAO on the range of issues that emerged from the Forum for Food Sovereignty, held in June 2002, in parallel with the five-year review of the World Food Summit. A series of meetings are expected to take place in the course of 2004 to enhance dialogue and strengthen

cooperation between FAO and indigenous peoples' organizations on issues of common concern.

D. Seminar on Indigenous Peoples in Food and Agriculture

22. The Seminar on Indigenous Issues in Food and Agriculture was held at FAO headquarters on 16 and 17 December 2003 with the participation of three representatives of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Mr. Henrik Ole Magga (Norway), chairman of the Forum, Mr. Ayitégan Kouevi (Togo) and Mr. Parshuram Tamang (Nepal).

23. The overall objective of the seminar was to promote mutual understanding of institutional mechanisms and mandates between the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and FAO and to jointly explore the issues of indigenous peoples related to food and agriculture.

24. In particular the seminar tried:

(a) To promote awareness and understanding of indigenous issues and the mechanisms and mandates of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other United Nations processes related to indigenous peoples among FAO staff;

(b) To promote awareness of the mandates, mechanisms and activities of FAO relevant to indigenous peoples among the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

(c) To jointly identify and understand issues of indigenous peoples relating to food and agriculture and the mandate of FAO in the context of the work and mandate of other United Nations agencies;

(d) To identify and develop specific areas of work for FAO on indigenous issues and cooperation with indigenous peoples;

(e) To introduce indigenous representatives to FAO, its mandate, mechanisms and key staff.

25. **During the seminar several areas of collaboration were identified:**

(a) **The need for continuous FAO collaboration with the United Nations Interagency Support Group and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;**

(b) **The importance for FAO participation in the next session of the Permanent Forum, sharing the work that it is currently doing in the areas of indigenous women, forestry and biodiversity;**

(c) **The need to find better information channels through which indigenous peoples may gain access to more information on FAO activities, in particular those related to standard setting, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and the FAO guidelines on the right to food;**

(d) **Participation of representatives from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the third Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (June 2004) as well as that of other indigenous groups outside the Permanent Forum (the participation of Permanent Forum representatives should not, in fact, replace participation of other indigenous peoples' groups).**

26. Representatives of the Permanent Forum saw the seminar as the starting point of an ongoing process, and they hope to continue this dialogue.

IV. Activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the special theme of the third session: Indigenous women

27. Gender is an FAO core programme that cuts across all the activities in the organization. Some of the activities related to indigenous peoples and gender are set out below.

A. Gender and biodiversity

28. Together with the Government of the Netherlands, FAO is working on a project related to gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems to strengthen agriculture and rural development in southern Africa. The project focuses on local and indigenous knowledge systems and its important role for sustainable agro-biodiversity management and food security. The project aims at the improvement of rural people's food security and promotion of sustainable management of agro-biodiversity through the strengthening of the capacity of institutions to use participatory approaches that recognize the knowledge of farmers, both men and women, in their programmes and policies. Training and capacity-building, support for research activities and communication and advocacy to enhance sharing and exchange of information about the value of local and indigenous knowledge are key activity areas of the project.

B. Gender policy and indigenous women

29. FAO is working in the development of a regional gender strategy (tools, guidelines and policy directions) in the Andes. The key objectives of the project are to: (a) design a set of regional gender policy guidelines that will help integrate gender equality in policies, planning, programmes and projects of agricultural/rural development in the Andean region; and to (b) strengthen capacities (of government institutions, women's organizations, indigenous organizations and NGOs involved in agricultural and rural development) to incorporate gender equality aspects in projects and programmes designed and implemented in the Andean region. Special attention is drawn to the different conditions, needs and priorities of indigenous compared to non-indigenous Andean women.

V. Focal point on indigenous issues at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

30. The Director-General of FAO nominated a focal point for indigenous issues in 2001. As a result a focal points network group was formed. The group is led by the Land Tenure Service of the Rural Development Division and, in particular, by the recently appointed FAO Focal Point on Indigenous Issues.

31. The group is integrated through the membership of one focal point designated by each FAO technical department and one focal point designated by each of the FAO regional offices around the world. The network serves as an internal forum for information exchange and support of indigenous issues in FAO activities. It is the focal point for inter-agency collaboration and information exchange.

Notes

[1] According to the World Food Summit, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Achieving food security means ensuring that sufficient food is available, that supplies are relatively stable and that those in need of food can obtain it.

[2] The group was formed as a result of the NGO/civil society organization Forum for Food Sovereignty, in order to coordinate and strengthen common positions among the various NGOS, civil society organizations and global, regional and constituency-based networks, such as farmers, indigenous peoples, artisanal fisher folk and agricultural workers.